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SOUTHERN Farm Leader

Dedicated to the farm workers', sharecroppers', tenants' and small owners' struggle for union, justice and a better life.

V. 1 No 8

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Costs Arkansas Planter $3500 In Peonage Case

On Nov. 25 last, City Marshal Paul Peacher of Earle, Arkansas, was sentenced to two years in jail and fined $3,500 for aiding and abetting slavery. Judge Martineau of the U. S. District Court accompanied the sentence with a warning that lawlessness and intimidation of poor farmers in the South must end.

Full credit for this important conviction must go to the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. Without its untiring efforts, Peacher would never have been brought to trial.

The Sharecroppers' Union and the Farmers' Union should profit by the conviction of Peacher and follow it up with similar prosecutions wherever they occur. Strong farmers' unions can rally all the progressive forces in the nation around them to put an end to peonage in the South.

In convicting Peacher, the government has been forced to recognize the existence of one of the worst evils in the South, but peonage will never really die until the farmers' unions kill it.

Farmers' Union Plans For 1937

The 32nd annual convention of the Farmers' Union held in Des Moines, Iowa, last month with delegates representing 37 states voted to continue the fight for cost of production prices for farm products and farm mortgage refinancing.

Resolutions calling for homestead exemption laws in all states, a graduated land tax to prevent all land from being owned by too few owners and limiting the power of the Supreme Court so that it cannot rule out social legislation to aid the people.

The convention endorsed the Farmer-Labor co-operation plan and recommended further work along this line. One resolution provided for the Farmers' Union to work with other organizations with similar principles in carrying out the aims of the Union.

The delegates resolved to protect democracy in America and pointed to the danger of fascist dictatorship like farmers and workers suffer in Germany and Italy.

E. H. Everson of St. Charles, South Dakota was re-elected National President. John Vesecky of Salina, Kansas was elected Vice-President. J. M. Graves of Perkins, Oklahoma was elected to replace E. E. Kennedy as National Secretary. The National Board members elected are Geo. A. Nelson, Milltown, Wisconsin; Joe Plumer of Akron, Colorado; W. C. Irby of Jacksonville, Alabama; C. C. Talbott of Jamestown, North Dakota; and H. G. Keeney of Omaha, Neb.

TENANCY HEARING AT MONTGOMERY

President Roosevelt's Farm Tenancy Committee announced a series of regional hearings to study "the possibilities of co-operative farming by tenants."

The southern meetings will be held at Dallas, Texas, January 4, and Montgomery, Alabama, January 8.

Union members plan to attend the sessions at Montgomery.

Above is a group of Winston County farmers returning from the County meeting of the Farmers' Union in Double Springs, Alabama. In the back row third from the right is J. W. Manasco, County President, and second from the right is McKinley Gilbert, President of Local No. 367 and member of the County Committee. Brother Gilbert wrote a fine article for the last issue of SOUTHERN FARM LEADER.

Alarming Farm Tenancy Increase Reported In Washington Meeting

[illegible] at the opening session of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy, "three farmers out of every four owned the land they operated; only one was a tenant." Today two out of five are tenants and even those who own their land have seen its value cut to less than half.

To combat the evils in the present system of farm tenancy, the Committee proposed that landlord-tenant agreements be improved. The chief obstacle to farm ownership has been "the land speculators, timber skinners and land sharks which has marched across so many pages of American history", according to Secretary Wallace. As a result, farm tenancy is increasing.

The only tenant farmer on the committee, W., Blackstone of Wynne, Arkansas, and a member of the S. T. F. U. was added to it only after pressure was used. This "father of ten children, and preacher on Sundays" demanded that the Federal Government encourage the unionization of tenants, croppers and farm labor as the first step in solving tenant problems.

JASPER UNION MEN OPPOSE SALES TAX

Montgomery, Ala. — By referring the proposed sales tax to the Senate Committee on Education, instead of the Finance Committee, where it should have gone, Tom Knight and his kind are seeking to force the Legislature to pass this unjust tax.

Appearing before the Senate Committee on Education, John Whitson, O. P. Pruett and M. W. Martin, a committee from the Jasper Central Labor Union, were the only labor and farmer representatives to oppose the sales tax.

St. Landry Farm Hands Remain on Land; Demand Loans From Resettlement

The Labor Relations Division of the Resettlement Administration is in the process of making a thorough investigation of the proposed Tenant-Security project near Opelousas, La., according to Dr. W. W. Alexander, Resettlement Administrator. Resettlement has been forced to take definite responsibility for the tenants it displaces by these projects by the organized protest of the eight strong Farmers' Union locals in St. Landry Parish.

A delegation from the Farmers' Union presented the following facts to Resettlement Administration officials in Washington. The information is backed by affidavits from each of the tenants.

1. The 20 white and colored tenants have been on the farm an average of six years. One family has been there 17 years, having helped drain the land and clear it of briars.

2. Most of the families had been working on halves but several had their own teams and were on thirds.

3. They were all good farmers according to the testimony of their overseer.

4. Several of them had made definite arrangements with the owners and the overseer for next years crop.

5. It was not until November that definite enough assurance of the sale to Resettlement made it convenient for the owners to notify the tenants. Definite notice was served until December which is five months past the time when tenants in this section begin making arrangements for new places if they have to move.

6. Of the tenants white and colored who tried to find places during November, three had to move to town with the prospect of only occasional employment and five were forced onto much poorer farms than they had been working.

7. Only one of the tenants on the farm was accepted by Resettlement. This man has been bitterly anti-Union and has made threats on the lives of Union leaders.

8. The County Agents office and the local Resettlement offices have both been antagonistic to the Union but white and colored farmers in the vicinity of the St. Landry Farm have joined in asking Resettlement to help the tenants.

9. All tenants are capable farmers and wish to remain and get help from Resettlement to raise themselves to the status of farm owners.

Mr. W. C. Irby, national board member and southern representative of the Farmers' Union, spent one week in the parish and gave active support to the Union's stand. Despite threats on his life by a small group of hoodlums he met all his engagements in the parish and helped bring new members into the Union.

The Farmers' Union has also received the support of organized labor in Louisiana and of farm organizations in widely different parts of the country. As a result, Resettlement has already indicated that it will help the tenants and will not permit the eviction threatened by the owners.

Gordon McIntire

Brother McIntire has worked with the Farmers' Union in St. Landry Parish for the past two months.

OUR STAND IN ST. LANDRY PARISH

By Gordon McIntire

Having been in St. Landry Parish for the past few weeks I want to clear up any misunderstanding about our position on the proposed tenant-security project there.

We advised the tenants to remain on the St. Landry Farm because it was too late to find other places and there was gross discrimination against both white and colored simply because they were poor—most of them did not have teams. We drew no color line and criticised Resettlement for doing so.

The Resettlement Supervisor and County Agent could not stand this pressure. Mr. Louis Fontenot went back on his statement that the tenants were not getting a fair deal and called us "nigger-lovers." County Agent Smith and his secretary Wybler also feared that the Union might check up on their handling of tenant's AAA and Soil Conservation checks. Mr. Wybler has questioned tenants and made them deny any connection with the Union. He is still trying to rush the tenants off the St. Landry Farm. Are these men paid to help farmers or bankers?

Mr. Sumerall, [illegible] of Louisiana tenant-security projects washed his hands of the whole matter saying that Resettlement had bought the land clear of tenants and it was the duty of the owners to throw the people on the road. Mr. Terry, family selector for the district consented to the Union demand that he interview the remaining tenants but refused to look up the white and colored families who had been either driven out of farming or onto poorer farms. This neglect of duty has served to hold up the whole investigation by Resettlement.

The Farmers' Union did take the trouble to look up the matter and got affadavits from these families. By doing so it readily got the support of honest white and colored farmers in the vicinity of the farm and rallied the support of farm organizations all over the country.

As a result Resettlement Administrator Will Alexander wired that no family would be thrown off the farm until a thorough investigation was made by his Labor Relations Division. He has further promised Resettlement aid for the tenants. As a result of this struggle the union is strengthened.

4,000 STRIKERS IN MARITIME PARADE

Four thousand striking seamen and maritime workers held a parade and mass meeting in New Orleans on Dec. 26. White and colored groups, representing all the maritime unions, took part in the parade and were watched with great interest by the citizens who lined the streets.

The seamen's strike is now in its second month and the spirit and solidarity of the men is stronger than ever. They are fighting for higher wages, recognition of their unions and demand better living conditions on their floating homes.

A.F.L. Will Fight To Include Farm Workers In Social Security Laws

The 56th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Tampa, Florida, last month passed several resolutions aimed at bettering the conditions of farm laborers.

One resolution called for including agricultural workers in the Social Security Act and the other similar government legislation that now leaves out these workers.

Another resolution provided for an investigation of organization among farm workers with a view to setting up a National Union of Agricultural Workers in the A. F. L. This set-up will be a big aid in organizing these workers.

Secretary Morrison's report showed that there were 62 Federal Unions (A. F. L.) of agricultural, cannery and dairy workers with a membership of about 7000.

Fourteen delegates from Agricultural unions presented their case for a national charter in a manner which made their plea a high light in the convention. Delegate after delegate took the floor with urgent appeals. Donald Henderson of Freehold, New Jersey, Lief Dahl of New Jersey, and Paul Arias of Colorado led the delegation.

A.F.L. Protests Florida Peonage

In the town of McClenny, near Tampa, Florida, an entire Negro population is being held in virtual slavery. They are forced to live in a collection of shacks owned by Will Knabb, a greedy turpentine operator. He works them from sunrise to dark for fifty cents to a dollar a day. No one can leave the place and everything must be bought at Knabb's store. Prices are twice as high as in Tampa.

The workers are in constant fear of Knabb's two stool pigeons. Even if they know that 52 of their children are being crowded into one schoolroom, they are too frightened to complain.

Delegates to the A. F. of L. convention in Tampa passed a resolution protesting against the awful conditions in McClenny. They asked that no more meetings be held in cities like Tampa where convict labor is used in the streets while vice and corruption are protected by the police. Governor Scholz has promised an investigation of peonage in Florida, as a result of the A. F. of L. protest.

TENANCY BOARD MEETS FEB. FIRST

The President's Tenancy Committee meets again February 1, to propose Congressional aid for Share-croppers, tenants and [illegible] small farm owners.

WIDOW LOSES JOB, REFUSES TO SELL BODY TO OVERSEER

A widow, Mrs. Claudie Woody, living near Camp Hill, Alabama, was fired from a soil conservation project in Tallapoosa County during the past cotton picking season because she would not sell her body to her overseer for a few cents. Mrs. Woody and three other women were transferred from the Dadeville sewing room to heavy manual labor a few days before Christmas.

Their work consisted of carrying 100 lb. sacks of slag, planting kudzu, and piling brush and pine tops to burn. Mrs. Woody was forced to walk four and one-half miles from her home to Camp Hill where she was routed by truck to the different soil erosion projects over the county.

During the past fall she refused the money offered by her overseer, Eulace Wintsley, and was fired as a result. When she made complaint to the head county official she was told that she "had only been doing half of her work." For the past few months she has been dependent upon the kindness of a few friends who knew of her difficulty.

The other women on her crew are still on the job and have to do heavy manual labor. They are Mary Kennedy, Cauley Davis, and Jeanie Roberson all living near Dadeville, Alabama.

BUY UNION LABEL GOODS

We Join The A. F. Of L.

The farm wage hands in the Share Croppers Union should prepare now to organize into the American Federation of Labor. According to our convention resolution we decided that wage workers should have their own organization. We decided that we could gain more by being a part of the largest Federation of workers in the United States.

In Alabama a union of farm wage workers is being organized at the present time. The locals of the Share Croppers Union where the majority of the members are wage workers should write to the office at once and state how many wage hands there are and when a meeting to organize them in the American Federation of Labor can be arranged.

It costs $1 to join the union and about 35c a month dues. This is much more than in the S.C.U. but the members must remember that it costs money to run a union, the bosses don't help. A strong A.F.L. union can succeed in increasing wages, making conditions better, and getting contracts with landlords so that the dues will be well worth paying. Workers who cannot pay these dues right away can get a union "work card" which entitles them to meet the open meeting of the union and take part in making all plans affecting them. Every local will have an official charter.

The locals of the S.C.U. should write to P. O. Box 859, New Orleans, Louisiana right away and make plans for joining into the American Federation of Labor.

Then we will be able to rally the 3 million organized workers in the United States and the thousands of farmers in the Farmers' Union to back our struggles for a fair wage, shorter hours, decent working conditions, labor contracts with landlords and unemployment insurance.

We Join The Farmers' Union

Many members of the Share Croppers Union where the most of the members are croppers, tenants and small owners are getting ready to transfer to the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America — called the Farmers' Union for short. This is in accord with the resolution of our convention and the argeement with the Alabama Farmers' Union.

All locals that are ready to make application for a Farmers' Union charter should do as follows:

Collect $1.50 from each male member over 21 years of age. This pays the joining fee and one years dues. Women and boys between the ages of 16 and 21 join free of charge and have full rights in the meetings.

Every local must have at least 5 paying members. When the names and addreses are sent in with the money the union charter and membership cards, copies of the constitution and by-laws and so forth will be sent to the Secretary of the Local.

A special meeting of the local should be arranged for an organizer to attend to explain the Farmers' Union and help make out the application. Write to the office at P. O. Box 859, New Orleans, Louisiana to make these arrangements.

The Farmers' Union is organized in 37 states and has a powerful membership. They will back up the enslaved sharecroppers and tenants in their struggles for land, teams, tools, crop loans, relief and other needs.

We will support the wage hands in their struggles and in turn they will support us. We will co-operate with the American Federation of Labor to aid the great cause of freedom for all workers and farmers. Every member of the S.C.U. must study the program of the Farmers' Union and build the union as fast as possible.

UNION PROPOSALS TO SECURE LAND AND TEAMS FOR LANDLESS

By Clyde L. Johnson

This year Congress will most likely pass some legislation to enable some sharecroppers and tenants to buy their own land, teams and tools and farm for themselves. The unions have been fighting for such legislation for a long time, now we want to have a voice in proposing legislation to Congress.

As we all know very well, the Senators and Representatives in Congress representing the South are elected by the big landlords. They cannot represent the poor people for whom they pass laws because we can't vote.

We want to see a law passed that will really help the sharecroppers, tenants and poor farmers. Therefore we present the following proposals and ask all unions and interested people to write letters to their congressmen insisting that they support them.

1. Loans to sharecroppers and share-croppers to enable them to buy their own teams, and tools so they can become cash renters. We make this proposal because we know the Congress will not appropriate enough money to cover all farmers in need of aid. It will cost an average of $5000 to set up a farmer on his own land while it will cost an average of $500 to provide a sharecropper a team, tools and money to put in a crop. With a given sum of money ten times as many sharecroppers would get aid and be freed from high interest rates.

2. Loans to sharecroppers and tenant farmers to buy land, or rent land on permanent lease from the government, with additional loans for teams, tools, feed, seed and fertiliser.

3. Loans to establish co-operative farms. We favor co-operative farming because it allows the use of farm machinery for large scale production. This will give the co-operative farmers an even opportunity against the large landowners.

4. Loans to establish marketing and consumer co-operatives among poor farmers, controlled by the members, to enable them to buy supplies at cheaper prices and market their produce at uniform prices.

5. Committees to administer this program must have at least half the members be sharecroppers and poor farmers (both white and colored) in order to stop discrimination by landlords and bankers.

6. Additional legislation to provide money for schools for all poor farming people so they will be better able to handle their affairs and stop landlords from tricking, and robbing them.

7. Repeal of poll tax laws and allowing all citizens over 21 years of age the right to vote. This will give the people a voice in determining who and what laws shall govern them.

We do not have the space here to explain our full program but these are the main points.

We must warn all sharecroppers, tenants and small land owners that the program planned for right now by Secretary Wallace and President Roosevelt will do very little to aid the great number of farming people. Secretary Wallace said the program he had in mind would take 250 years. It is impossible for us to wait that long. We have lived in Hell long enough. We want to get out from under it now.

We will send you a copy of our statement to the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy upon request. Write to your congressman and demand that he support these proposals.

NO PROSPERITY IN THE COTTON COUNTRY

Our Readers Write

NO CROOKED TALK IN SUCH A FIX SAYS ST. LANDRY TENANT

Brother Editor:—

They say that Gradnigo Island was a white settlement. The land belongs mostly to white but the tenants have always been colored. It wasn't til the big war that they put the road through and a few whites bought small farms. Before that the Dupre family owned all this country and used just colored hands. There are very few grown white men born from Opelousas on north west here for seven or eight miles. I know because I was born about a mile from here. My grandmother and grandfather were slaves on the old Dupre plantation.

The government man was here yesterday and asked me a lot of questions about how much cotton I gathered and how many kids I got. He told me the organizer was going to get in trouble. He said you got your notice yesterday from Mr. Daly. I said yes but Mr. Bertheaud is my boss and he told me when I got my settlement that they was going to run it just like it had been and that they wasn't going to hurt none of us. He said yes but you better move or the sheriff will come and take your stuff and load it up and throw it in the road. I said alright when they do it I said I'll go with it.

The only thing that made me sorry was when the world was in war before. They picked us up and registered us and sent us to war to fight for our country. Now the country is quieted down and steady and the government doing with us just like a man would do with an old poor dog. If they was going to fight again we would sit right here.

I talked pretty straight to him but a man in my fix can't talk crooked.

Member Local No. 6
La. Farmers' Union.

FORCE DAY LABOR IN ELMORE

Brother Editor:—

I received the letters and papers from you. We are all trying to make the organization stronger and pull together.

We want to ask you a question. Can the landlords make the tenants move and put on day labor? I want to know very soon.

We have lots of landlords in Elmore County driving poor sharecroppers off and working the farms with day labor and moving poor white people on the land and trying to make all the colored people work by the day. We can't live that way in the winter.

Some of us have 8 and 10 in the family.

Elmore County Local
Share Croppers Union,

STRIKERS THANK FARMERS

December 24, 1936

Farmers' Union,
Dear Friends and Brothers:—

It is impossible for us to tell you now not only how much we appreciate strike relief in the very material form of Union Labor Potatoes, but also how much this has aided our strikers.

Realizing that we are fighting against anti-union and reactionary odds, we are happy to report that our ranks are solid and victory is in sight due to a great extent to your brotherly aid and that of other friends.

We only hope that we will have the opportunity soon of aiding you in the hard but sure and steady advance of the cause of all those who toil.

Fraternally,

R. E. Meers,
Chairman Joint Strike Committee.

SAD XMAS IN SCHOOL

Brother Editor:—

All of the schools in this county close Dec. 23. We start back to work Dec. 31. Most of the large children, especially the boys will not get back to school after New Years Day because they will have to go to work in the fields plowing if it is not too wet. If it is too wet they will clean ditch banks, cut bushes, etc.

The parents do not have but a few cents and some have none with which to get their children fruits, candy and little odd things like they did when "times were good" as they say. They speak dry and sad and wish there wasn't any Xmas.

A few of the teachers are giving Xmas trees. It only means a little social gathering if the weather is not too cold. Maybe they will sell a few things like candy and fruit. Some of us are giving short programs and I think that will please the parents.

A teacher,
Tallapoosa County, Ala.

WOMEN MUST HELP WIN BETTER LIFE

Brother Editor:—

There are so many things of interest happening in these days and times that I thought I would write a few lines regarding the importance of the women taking part in bringing about better conditions for farmers and workers.

We should feel that it is just as much our duty to assist in affairs of our community toward bettering our interests and encourage our friends and neighbors to do likewise.

It is just as much to our interest that we have better roads, schools, and the children should have warm clothing and the right kind of food to eat as it is our husbands.

We are living in the richest country in the world and yet so many of the farmers and workers suffer from lack of homes and work.

We must learn to understand that an injury to one is an injury to all and we must do everything we can to organize and work in our organization with our men folks for a free and happy America.

Mrs. Rose Ott,
Bellwood Local,
Louisiana Farmers' Union.

SECRETARY DIES

Archie Warner, secretary of Opelousas, La., local number 6 of the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union died December 4th, 1936. While sick with pneumonia he was worried by threats the government was going to evict his family from the St. Landry Farm. He leaves an aged mother, wife, and seven children. Henry, the oldest son is 18 years old.

ANOTHER TAX FRAUD

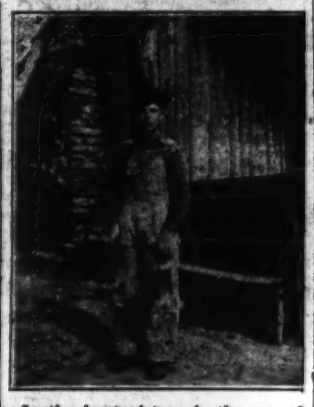
Brother Editor:—

The over subscription of the $50,000 Roosevelt Campaign Fund in Mississippi is partly due to the fact that ten cents was deducted from every bale of cotton when ginned.

Since most of the Share Croppers both white and Negro are unqualified voters and the Negroes are denied the right to hold any kind of public office or serve on juries, we think that taxing every bale of cotton ten cents for Mrs. Roosevelt's campaign fund is a fraud and unlawful extortion.

Down with the Poll Tax.

A Homeless Tax Payer,
Starvation County,
Mississippi.



In th above picture is the son of a white sharecropper in Winston County, Alabama. He goes to school and works for the National Youth Administration for $1 a week. He is badly in need of glasses but what can he get with that wage.

KEEP HIS AAA CHECKS

Broter Editor:—

I am writing you to let you know how landlords treat croppers when they want to get the little right the government is supposed to give the croppers. I went to Camp Hill this morning to sell what cotton I made this year and ——— wanted me to sign some papers. He said that the papers were for the 1935 subsidy check. He wanted me to let the check go on this years rent. I did not sign the paper because he had gotten the check some time ago and hadn't given it to me.

Because I would not sign the papers Mr. W. P. Smith told me that I could not get a home. He said I was like a hard headed mule and wouldn't cooperate with them. He said you want to get something for nothing.

He said, "this is ——— property and you ought to sign the papers. She don't want one strand of your hair in your head."

I know she don't want my hair. But if she could get any profit out of my hair she would want it too.

As I did not sign the paper ——— told me to give him the house quick as I can. He wants to put someone else in the house.

So this shows how the croppers are treated when they want what belongs to them. Mr. W. P. Smith told me that they hear from me about one thing and another. I told him I want to do what it right. But I could not sign the paper because signing the papers and getting nothing wouldn't be any good for me.

A Sharecropper,
Camp Hill, Ala.

LOWNDES COUNTY COLORED TENANTS FORCED OFF FARMS

Brother Editor:—

I receive the papers every month and I give them out to all in my group and they like t oread the paper very much.

We are getting along very well but there is some moving in this part. This is on account of the landlords renting their land to the white some where else. Some landlord is buying big plantations and the tenants don't like the man who is buying it so they are moving.

Some of us made a little cotton but not much. Some paid out but some did not pay out. I myself paid out and saved some but by the time I got my wife and daughter some clothes and shoes all my money was gone.

Some got peanuts and potatoes. Some got syrup. Some got hogs to kill. Some got cows to milk. Some got nothing.

Your paper is a great help to the Negro race. There isn't a better paper for us than the Southern Farm Leader.

We hope that you will continue to send the paper. Some people are afraid of unions and meetings. But my group of 20 men and 10 women is brave and strong and we are making every effort to put the program over. Let me hear from yau all the time.

Secty. Burkeville Local,
Share Croppers Union.

LOCAL NO. 2 RESOLUTION

Dear Brother Editor:—

Here is a resolution from Local No. 2 of the La. Farmers' Union:

Be it resolved that the Resettlement Administration help worthy tenants to secure homes, and all necessary requirements to make a comfortable living on the farm, and that those tenants who live on large farms and have given satisfaction and are told to move should be notified in time to get other good homes.

(2) We want better equipped school houses and free text books, longer school terms, higher salaries for Negro teachers, and free transportation for Negro children.

(3) Justice for all white and Negro people.

(4) Better prices for farm produce, and better wages for day and monthly labor.

(5) Help to abolish the credit system, and help for tenants and small landowners to secure cash thru federal aid so that they may be better able to properly support their families.

(6) That the West Bellview people have a right to secure wood from all the public land in the swamps.

(7) For the protection of personal property from mortgage and seizure.

Secty. Local No. 2,
La. Farmers' Union.

Louisiana Labor Leader And Editor Greets Union Farmer

Mr. Clyde Johnson, Secretary,
Louisiana Farmers' Union.

Dear Sir and Brother:—

On the eve of what I firmly believe will be the greatest year for organized workers both farm and city, in the history of our Country, may I offer my congratulations for the splendid work accomplished during the past year. May I also offer my congratulations to your splendid wife for the work accomplished at the office while you were in the fields or in Washington. I do not want to forget Gordon McIntire for the constructive work accomplished in Opelousas, and the splendid way he handled the re-settlement project that would have made peapers of honest and faithful Spanish.

As Secretary Farmers' Cooperative Committee of the New Orleans Central Trades and Labor Council, I wish to thank our Farmer Brothers for the splendid support given the Striking Seamen during the gigantic struggle they are undergoing for human liberty, and a chance to raise families with a reasonable amount of decency and comfort. The Sweet Potatoes grown and packed by members of your Union, and bearing the union label, contributed to these brothers is a testimonial to the fidelity and brotherly love engendered by and as a result of organization. This action of your members will be long remembered and will be told on the four corners of the world by seamen who benefitted by the noble action of your members.

For your information the farmers of St. John, St. Bernard and Jefferson parishes have contributed many truckloads of assorted vegetables to the striking seamen and the word of organization has been passed along the line, and many of these farmers are only waiting until you or one of your worthy associates can find time to visit them and tell them what the necessary requirements are to join your organization.

May I close by expressing the wish that you and your co-workers will keep up the good work accomplished during the past year and look forward to the unity of both farm and city workers so vitally necessary to abolish starvation and want throughout the land.

Wishing you and your co-workers a happy and prosperous New Year, I am

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Wm. L. Dodge,
Editor The Dockers' Light.
Official Organ Local Union No. 3
Federation of Labor.

A Christmas Message

Brother Editor:—

The great feast of Christmas will soon be reminding us again of the real reason why all farmers should belong to the Farmers' Union and all industrial workers to the A. F. of L., and the C. I. O. and their affilliates.

As St. Paul tells us, we are all members of the Body of Christ. When one members suffers, all the members suffer with it; and when one member rejoices, all the members rejoice with it. A beautiful and inspiring example of this Christian solidarity is being given here today during the seamen's strike.

Members of the Farmers' Union, despite their own distressed condition, are cooperating with the seamen by furnishing them with as much food as they can, possibly more, doing their utmost to help their brethren succeed in their just demands for a living wage, decent working and living quarters, and collective bargaining thru legally elected representatives. In the same way, both organized farmers and organized workers are endeavoring, and succeeding, more and more to secure their right to a decent living wage for the year, by purchasing only manufactured articles or farm products that have the Union label on them.

Thus both farmer and city worker are helping, thru their union, to secure for BOTH a decent, reasonably comfortable existence that is in keeping with the great dignity of the human being because of his Divine adoption and Redemption.

The brotherly love that we owe one another, regardless of race or color, makes it not only a right but a real duty for us to join in a strong independent union. In union there is strength. Alone we are weak and helpless, before the forces of injustice. If we do not organize, it is our fault that there continues to exist an unjust division of profits, and despotic domination by the few.

This is not just a pet opinion or a private view; it is the solemn teaching of the Church: "We lay it down as a general and lasting law that Workmen's unions should be organized, so as to furnish the best means for helping each worker to secure his condition to the utmost, in body, soul and property. To unite into these unions is a natural right of man and the State must protect natural rights of men, not destroy them." Pope Leo XIII.

"It is better that two should be together than one; for if one fall he shall be supported by the other. But woe to him that is alone; for when he falls, he has no one to lift him up. A brother that is helped by his brother is like a strong city."

Are we going to continue to ignore the lesson of that great event which took place on the first Christmas day, when God in the fullness of His love, gave us His own Son, made us the brothers of Christ, the members of His Body, so that we might become more like Him in love and treat others according to their great dignity of sons of God and brothers of Christ.

Spiritually members of the same great divine family, we must manifest this visibly organized action in our quest for material livelihood. We must join the union! We must act in a united cooperative way for the welfare of each and all.

Cordially yours in Christ the King,
Rev. Jerome A. Dreyer.